

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03390 120619Z

10
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 L-03 EUR-25 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

/105 W
----- 067048

R 091014Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4619
SECDEF WASHDC
SECAIR FORCE WASHDC
INFO USMTM DHARHAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 3390

SECDEF FOR ISA
SECAIR FORCE FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PK, SA
SUBJ: SULTAN STILL LOOKING FOR HELP WITH DISPOSAL F-86'S

REF: A. JIDDA 3104 (NOTAL)
B. JIDDA 3233 (NOTAL)

1. WE SPOKE TOO SOON (REF A) WHEN INDICATING SULTAN HAD ACCEPTED OUR POSITION THAT WE UNABLE PROVIDE SOME SUITABLE METHOD FOR DISPOSING OF F-86 AND T-33 AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN SIMPLY DESTRUCTION HERE.

2. AT MEETING WITH HIM AUGUST 5 PRINCE UNDERTOOK LENGTHY HARANGUE TO IMPRESS ME WITH URGENCY AND RELEVANCE REQUIREMENT THAT PLANES BE EITHER, (A) GIVEN OR SOLD TO ANOTHER COUNTRY THAT COULD USE THEM (PAKISTAN BEING PARTICULARLY LOGICAL RECIPIENT); (B) OR USG OR MANUFACTURER OF AIRCRAFT SHOULD BUY THEM BACK; (C) OR SULTAN WOULD BE HAPPY IF US WOULD JUST HAUL THEM AWAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03390 120619Z

3. SULTAN SAID HE HAD NOT YET INFORMED KING ABOUT OUR

RESPONSE (REF B). HE CITED, NOT VERY CONVINCINGLY, EXAMPLES OF HELPFUL STEPS BY OTHER GOVTS, PARTICULARLY BRITISH, TO TAKE BACK OVER-AGE HARDWARE. SULTAN'S ARGUMENTS BECAME LESS PERSUASIVE AS HE WENT ON--CITING SUPPOSED INTENSE INDIGNATION AMONG YOUNGER OFFICERS OF RSAF IF USG FAILED PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT IN THIS CASE.

4. IN RESPONSE TOLD PRINCE I HAD MADE INTENSIVE EFFORT OVER MANY MONTHS, INCLUDING PERSONAL LETTERS TO SENIOR DOD OFFICERS, TO FIND SOME USEFUL PURPOSE FOR PLANES. FUNDAMENTAL DIFFICULTY REMAINED: F-86 IS OVER-AGE AND OBSOLETE AND NOBODY WANTS IT ANYMORE. I SUGGESTED IT IS TIME FOR SAUDI DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT ACCEPT GENERAL CONCEPTS OF INEVITABLE LIFE CYCLE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT: IT IS INTRODUCED, UTILIZED, AND THEN PUT ASIDE OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF WHEN IT BECOMES OBSOLETE. USG HAS FIELDS FILLED WITH ANCIENT AIRCRAFT STACKED TOGETHER. SAID I REALIZED THIS MIGHT BE NEW IDEA FOR SAUDI ARMED FORCES, WHICH HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED SO MANY SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS OF MILITARY GEAR. NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS SOMETHING TO WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED, SINCE IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT A PART OF SUPPLY PROCEDURE AS INITIAL ACQUISITION. I WONDERED IF MODA SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH REGULAR SURVEY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSING OF OLD MATERIEL. THIS COULD HELP AS FORM OF ORDERLY PROCESS FOR EASING OUT OBSOLESCENT ITEMS. PLANES MIGHT BE PLACED IN MUSEUMS, IN TOWN SQUARES, OR SHOT UP AS TARGETS. AS FOR DELIVERY TO PAKISTAN, I REMINDED HIM AGAIN THAT WHILE WE COULD NOT APPROVE TRANSFER OF AIR FRAMES OR ARMAMENTS, WE WERE QUITE WILLING TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR DELIVERY FULL LINE OF SPARE PARTS.

5. SULTAN WOULD NOT GIVE UP AND WENT BACK THROUGH HIS INITIAL ARGUMENTS AGAIN WITH A FEW EXTRA TWISTS, AND DISCUSSION CONTINUED BACK AND FORTH FOR SOME TIME. AT END I MADE POINT QUITE FIRMLY I COULD GIVE HRH NO HOPE WE COULD HELP HIM.

6. COMMENT: WE JUDGE THIS AS SITUATION WHERE SULTAN HAS AGAIN MADE AN UNWISE OR HASTY PROMISE TO SATISFY SOME PRE-CONCEIVED NOTION ON PART OF KING AS TO HOW PHASING OUT OF F-86 AND T-33 SHOULD BE HANDLED. HE IS NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT IT, BUT THERE SEEMS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LET HIS STEW ON THIS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 03390 120619Z

ONE. IF HE RAISES IT AGAIN, I WILL TRY ONCE MORE PERSUADE HIM
THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO.
THACHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOANS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA03390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS THACHER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730848/aaaabjkq.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. JIDDA 3104 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SULTAN STILL LOOKING FOR HELP WITH DISPOSAL F-86'S
TAGS: MASS, PK, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005